after regular school hours.

The new high school, which began accepting students in February 1989, is geared toward students who hold full-time jobs or who are otherwise unable to attend school during the day, according to a spokesman for the board. Classes are held from 5 to 11 P.M. on Monday through Thursday, with various cultural activities offered on Sundays.

The recent board action clears the way for the school to seek certification from the state. While other high schools in the city offer night courses, the new high school will be the first such diploma-granting school in recent times, according to the spokesman.

■ **The Prince George's County (Md.) Board of Education voted last month to use a lottery system to fill open seats in its magnet schools beginning this spring**, ending an annual ritual during which many parents camped outside the registration site in an attempt to secure spaces for their children.

The "first-come, first-served" system was believed to discriminate against single and working parents and others who were unable to devote up to a full week to wait in line, school officials said.

Spaces in the district's popular magnet-school programs have become increasingly scarce as the district nears complete implementation of a desegregation plan that doesn't include the opening of any new magnet schools.

Last year, the district received 5,000 applications for 1,200 available spaces in its magnet schools, district officials said. The recent board action follows a move last year to fill 30 percent of the available magnet-school seats with a random lottery.

■ **The Westinghouse Science Talent Search, the nation's most celebrated high-school science contest, has decided to admit entries from New York City's Stuyvesant High School even though they were received after the deadline.**

Contest officials originally had disqualified the late-arriving entries from the 90 seniors. They reversed their decision after the overnight mail service involved admitted it was to blame.

Seniors at the 2,600-student school regularly place high in the contest, which awards scholarhips of up to $20,000 to 40 winners. Last year, 26 of the 300 contest semifinalists were students at the school.

DIMENSIONS

The Education Workforce

More than one-half, or 7.5 million, of all state and local workers are employed in education activities, according to data for 1988 compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Over the past five years, the bureau reports, the education field has gained some 888,000 workers—the largest actual gain of any field. In each of those years, the workforce grew by 2 percent, according to the bureau.

In 1988, localities employed some 10.3 million workers, 4.7 million of whom worked for school districts. Those school employees earned $8.3 billion a year in wages.

The combined state and local workforce in 1988 was 12.4 million, or 505 employees per 10,000 population. Of the 505, 249.2 were employed in education, far more than in any other field.

Activity	Number per 10,000 Population
Education	249.2
Public Safety (police, fire, and corrections)	55.2
Health and Hospitals	54.4
Highways	22.0
Financial and General Government Administration	21.8
Public Welfare	17.5
Judicial and Legal	10.7
All Other Activities	74.0

UPDATE

Seattle Board Votes To Reject Controversial Anti-Busing Measure

The Seattle board of education has voted 4 to 3 to reject an anti-busing initiative narrowly approved by voters last November. *(See Education Week, Nov. 15, 1989.)*

The initiative would have required the City of Seattle to provide the school district with 6 percent of its sales-tax revenues—roughly $4.5 million a year—for voluntary desegregation programs if the board voted to abandon a "controlled choice" student-assignment plan implemented last fall.

Several board members said it was not feasible for the district to move quickly to adopt the districtwide open-enrollment plan called for in the initiative. Although most students are enrolled in schools of their choice under the "controlled choice" plan, its requirements for a racially balanced enrollment at each school force some students to accept schools they had not chosen.

Both supporters and opponents of the initiative have said they are willing to seek a compromise solution that would eliminate mandatory student assignments over the next several years.

Three organizations that threatened to challenge the initiative in court said they would heed the request of Norm Rice, the newly elected mayor and a staunch opponent of the initiative, to delay legal action until after Feb. 6. On that day, voters will be asked to approve a special property-tax levy for school operations.

■ **The New York City Board of Education has abandoned a controversial plan to permit an Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program to be established at a school named for the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.** *(See Education Week, Nov. 1, 1989.)*

The board announced its decision last month after encountering opposition from teachers, politicians, and Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's widow, who said the program did not belong in a school named for the slain civil-rights leader and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

■ **School officials in Mesa, Ariz., will no longer be required to report sexually active students to the police.**

Revised guidelines issued by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office late last month clarify a new state child-abuse law that—according to Mesa school officials and local police officials—mandated the reporting of all suspected sexual activity involving a minor. *(See Education Week, Nov. 29, 1989.)*

Under the new guidelines, employees are only bound to report students when there are "reasonable grounds to believe that a minor has been a victim" of a sexual offense.

■ **Dade County, Fla., school officials have released a new gun-awareness curriculum to teach children the dangers of firearms.**

The curriculum for students in preschool through the 12th grade was developed in part by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. Last fall, the center released a study estimating that 10 percent of youths who died in 1987 nationwide were killed by guns.

Under the program, whose development was authorized by the county school board in November 1988, students will learn that guns are dangerous, that they should never touch a gun, and that should stay away from others who do. *(See Education Week, Nov. 16, 1988.)*

For primary-grade students, the curriculum is designed to address the issue without highlighting violence. Through role play, children will be taught general safety procedures, decisionmaking skills, and conflict-resolution strategies, as well as the basic message to stay away from guns, according to a district spokesman.

The secondary curriculum focuses more on gun violence and methods of conflict resolution. It includes a video in which local teenagers discuss how their lives have been changed by gun violence, and offers advice on how to avoid dangerous situations involving firearms.

The district also plans to distribute pamphlets on gun safety to parents.

■ **The commissioners of education of New York and the six New England states have signed an agreement establishing the nation's first regional teaching certificate.**

The certificate, which will be issued beginning April 1, will allow qualified educators in any of the seven states to take a job immediately in any other participating state. Educators will have up to two years to complete the requirements for certification in the new state. *(See Education Week, Aug. 2, 1989.)*

Several commissioners at the Dec. 20 signing in Boston said the credential will help the region attract and keep qualified teachers.

In Connecticut, which recently enacted a comprehensive continuum of teacher examinations and performance assessments, the new credential will be available only for teachers of trade-related and occupational subjects.

■ **In response to complaints by teachers and other school employees, Fairfax County, Va., school officials have proposed that a controversial drug and alcohol policy be narrowed.**

Under the policy, implemented in November, school employees could have been fired on the first offense for having any amount of a drug or alcohol in their systems while on school grounds. *(See Education Week, Dec. 13, 1989.)*

At a school-board subcommittee meeting last month, officials proposed that the policy be applied only to employees who are on "assigned duties" and added a guarantee that employees would receive due process, said Burton Carnegie, the district's director of support employment services.

Mr. Carnegie also said school officials would no longer be required to administer a breathalyzer test to employees thought to be impaired on the job, or to automatically fire employees caught with drugs or alcohol in their systems. Rather, the revised policy states that the department "may" require such a test or impose such a penalty on an employee, he said.

■ **Philadelphia school officials must devise a new plan to encourage women and minorities to do business with the district**, the city school board decided last month.

The order comes in the wake of a U.S. District Court decision invalidating the district's six-year-old set-aside program. *(See Education Week, Dec. 6, 1989.)*

In a resolution adopted Dec. 11, the board gave school officials 60 days to complete a report on "race- and sex-neutral means by which to increase minority and women participation in school-district contracting."

According to a district spokesman, all bids have been placed on hold until the report is released. The district may need to rebid some contracts, he added.

■ **The Jefferson County (Colo.) School Board voted last month to eliminate more than 100 jobs to balance the district's 1990 budget.**

Teachers, administrators, and support staff will be laid off next fall to make up a $5.4-million deficit. The board made its decision after seeking the advice of educators, parents, and students. *(See Education Week, Dec. 13, 1989.)*

A total of 33 teachers and 12 administrators will lose their jobs. The remaining cuts will be made by eliminating full- and part-time nonteaching positions.

The board rejected other measures to reduce the deficit, such as increasing activity fees or curtailing athletic programs.

The cuts became necessary after voters rejected a tax-increase proposal last November.

PEOPLE

■ The New Hampshire Board of Education has named **Charles H. Marston**, the state's deputy commissioner of education, as commissioner of education.

Mr. Marston, who has served in the department of education since 1963, will succeed John T. MacDonald, who was named assistant U.S. secretary of education for elementary and secondary education.

Mr. Marston will fill out the remainder of Mr. MacDonald's term, and he is expected to be appointed to a full four-year term this summer.

■ **Bruce Howell**, former superintendent of the Tulsa Public Schools, has been rehired as the district's superintendent, effective Feb. 1.

Mr. Howell was superintendent in Tulsa from 1973 to 1976, when he resigned to become dean of education at the University of Tulsa, a position he has held for the past 13 years, according to a district spokesman.

The Tulsa school board voted 4 to 3 on Dec. 20 to offer Mr. Howell the position, with some board members protesting the abandonment of a national search in which Mr. Howell was not a finalist.

Mr. Howell replaces Larry Zenke, who left Tulsa last year to become superintendent of the Duval County, Fla., public schools.

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EDUCATION WEEK

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High Court Hears Case Examining Equal Access Act

At Issue Is Sanctioning Of Noncurricular Clubs

By William Snider

WASHINGTON—Public high schools that have sanctioned student clubs that are not directly related to a scholastic course must provide meeting space to all other such clubs, unless the groups are illegal or disruptive, a lawyer representing Nebraska students seeking the right to form a Bible club told the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

If such clubs advocate controversial political views, including separation of the races or the legalization of drugs, "that's the price of freedom," said the lawyer, Jay Allen Sekulow, acknowledging the consequences of his interpretation of the federal Equal Access Act of 1984.

During oral arguments in the most closely watched education case of the High Court's current term, *Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools* v. *Mergens* (Case No. 88-1597), the Justices seemed more intent on determining the conditions that trigger the provisions of the Equal Access Act, rather than the constitutionality of the law itself, which is also at issue.

Associate Justice Byron R. White, who led much of the questioning, may have telegraphed the direction in which the Court is leaning when he said, "It looks like we have to or might need to establish some definition of 'curriculum related.' "

The Equal Access Act specifies that districts must allow students to form religious and political groups if they have created a "limited open forum" in their high schools, which it defines as allowing other groups that are not curriculum-related to meet.

Continued on Page 20

On-Line 'Academical Village' Links Students and Teachers

By Debra Viadero

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.—When Thomas Jefferson designed the University of Virginia campus here, he envisioned a quiet place where faculty housing and classroom space would be interspersed with student dormitories.

The idea was to create an "academical village"—a setting where geographic proximity would foster learning and dialogue among students and professors.

Now, more than 170 years later, the university's Curry School of Education is attempting to accomplish the same goal on a grander scale. It is nurturing an innovative computer network with the potential for fostering interactions among students and teachers worldwide.

"What we're essentially trying to do is create an electronic 'academical village,' " explained Glen Bull, an associate

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Debra Viadero/Education Week

An innovative computer network at Virginia's Curry School of Education is creating "geographic proximity."

Videodisk To Vie With Textbooks For a Spot on Texas Adoption List

By Peter West

In a move that could sharply accelerate the growth of videodisk technology in schools, a pioneer in the field has announced it will compete with educational publishers to have the state of Texas adopt one of its products as an alternative to conventional textbooks.

The Optical Data Corporation of Warren, N.J., which in 1982 produced what it calls the first videodisk for the school market, plans to submit its "Windows on Science" series to the Texas Textbook Committee as a potential teaching tool for science courses in grades 1-6.

A successful bid in Texas, the second largest textbook market in the nation after California, would "lend tremendous credibility to [videodisks] as an alternative to textbooks," said Optical Data's founder and president, William E. Clark.

Officials in Texas point out that the competition is still in its early stages—a decision is not expected before next fall—and that computer-software programs as well as textbooks are expected to compete

Continued on Page 13

N.E.A. Assails Board's Policy on Prerequisites for Certification

By Ann Bradley

The National Education Association is calling on its members who serve on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to lobby the board to revise its policy on who is eligible for national teacher certification.

The union's 136-member board of directors opposes the national board's decision to offer the opportunity to become certified to any teacher with a bachelor's degree and three years of successful teaching experience at one or more primary or secondary schools.

Instead, the N.E.A. directors last month approved a motion stating that the union "will take whatever steps are necessary" to ensure that eligibility for national certification is tied to possession of a state teaching license and graduation from an accredited teacher-preparation program.

The union's concerns echo those expressed in September by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. *(See Education Week, Sept. 20, 1989.)*

AACTE also urged the national board to reconsider its position on prerequisites for certification. However, members of the national standards board declined at their October meeting to reconsider the issue.

The 64-member board, the majority of whose members are teachers, unanimously adopted the prerequisites for certification.

In its initial policy statement last July, the board noted that conditioning certification on state licensure and graduation from a teacher-education program would exclude many talented private- and postsec-

Continued on Page 11

NAEP Results in Reading, Writing Show Few Gains

Blacks' Scores Are Up Since the Early 1970's

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—Despite small gains, particularly for minorities, student achievement in reading and writing has shown little improvement since the early 1970's, two reports issued here last week show.

A report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, based on a 1988 test of 100,000 elementary-, middle-, and high-school students, found that students at age 9 and 17 were reading better in 1988 than their counterparts tested in 1971, and that those at age 13 were reading at about the same level.

But most of the improvement took place in the 1970's, before the recent round of intensive school reform, the report states.

And, it says, most of the reading gains have been in rudimentary skills, rather than on more complex tasks.

For example, in 1988, the proportion of 17-year-olds able to perform at the advanced level of reading found in professional and technical work environments—4.8 percent—was significantly smaller than the portion who could perform such exercises in 1971—7 percent.

In writing, a separate NAEP study of some 18,000 students in grades 4, 8, and 11 found that performance at all grade levels remains low and has changed little since 1974. Fewer than half the high-school students tested in 1988, that study found, were able to write adequately on five of the six tasks assigned.

Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos said the two tests' findings suggest that the "haphazard and piecemeal" school reforms of the 1980's have failed to raise students' "dreadfully inadequate" reading and writing skills.

"If anyone still doubts that it is time for change at an elemental, fundamental level, these data should be persuasive," he said at a press conference here. "I have said it repeatedly, our educational system must be restructured. We need a revolution in teaching and learning."

Archie E. Lapointe, NAEP's executive di-

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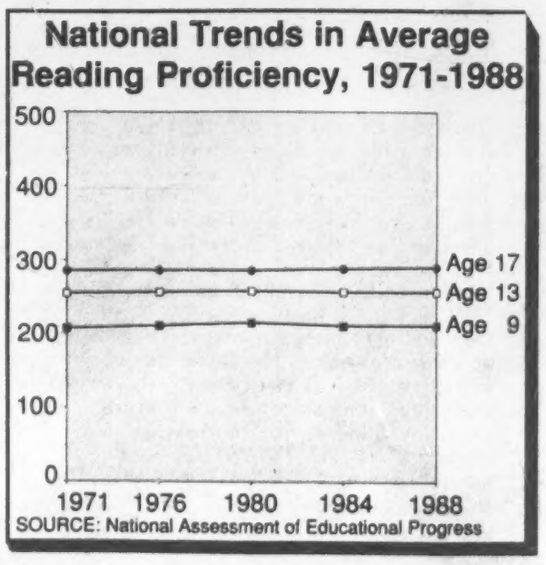

Also in the news

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A group of recent private-college graduates tries to revive the Teacher Corps idea.

15 **Opening Volleys**
Governors begin outlining their budget priorities as the legislative season begins.

19 **Bilingual Red Tape**
Local school officials used a Washington forum to air their 'overwhelming' problems.

IN SUMMARY

Chancellor's Uphill Battle
New York City's new schools chief got a vote of confidence from the Governor this month, but Joseph A. Fernandez still faces an uphill battle in getting his legislative proposals passed. **Page 5.**

Lead Exposure and Learning
Young adults who were exposed to low levels of lead during childhood may exhibit long-term, or even permanent, developmental and learning disabilities, a new study concludes. **Page 5.**

Proposition 42 Modified
The National Collegiate Athletic Association last week voted overwhelmingly to modify its often-debated rules on financial aid for academically deficient student-athletes. **Page 6.**

'Aversive Therapy' in Class?
Two families in Michigan are trying to force school districts to permit their youngsters to wear a controversial electric-shock device that helps curb head-banging behavior. **Page 10.**

State Agendas Emerging
The education agendas of the legislatures will focus this year on school-finance formulas and help for at-risk youths, according to a survey of lawmakers and their aides. **Page 14.**

Congress Starts Anew
Members of the Congress get back to work this week and are expected to quickly take up several education-related bills, including President Bush's education package. **Page 18.**

Nationwide Testing Urged
Every student in grades 4, 8, and 12 should be tested in five key subject areas to gauge progress toward meeting national performance goals, a Presidential committee proposed last week. **Page 18.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Peace Corps Seeks English Teachers For Programs in Poland, Hungary

Spurred on by the recent changes in Eastern Europe, the Peace Corps is working to recruit U.S. English teachers who are interested in training their fellow teachers in Poland and Hungary.

Jon Keeton, director of international research and development for the Peace Corps in Washington, said the organization hopes to send 60 teachers to each country in June.

Poland, in particular, needs as many as 10,000 teachers of English, Mr. Keeton said, to meet the demands created by increased contact with the West. The Peace Corps volunteers assigned to that country will train Polish teachers in how to teach English as part of the effort to meet that demand.

Teachers accepted for the two-year assignments—which will also include teaching English to secondary students—will be provided with housing, a living allowance, transportation and medical costs, and a stipend of $200 a month.

No knowledge of a foreign language is necessary, Mr. Keeton said, but applicants should be experienced in teaching English as a second language, and will be expected to demonstrate a record of academic excellence.

"These will be extraordinarily exciting places to teach in the coming year," Mr. Keeton said. "People there are so hungry to learn English."

■ **The National Education Association has designated four more school districts as Learning Laboratories, doubling the number of these experimental sites.**

In each district, educators are collaborating with their communities to develop programs to restructure and improve their schools.

Each of the new sites announced last month will receive a $5,000 grant to cover startup costs, as well as ongoing technical assistance from the national teachers' union.

The new sites are Greece, N.Y.; Greensburg Salem, Pa.; Chickasha, Okla.; and Mendon, Mich. The first four Learning Laboratories—in Chaska, Minn.; Marshalltown, Iowa; Memphis; and Westerly, R.I.—were announced last July.

STATES

California Teacher May Not Hold School-Board Seat, Court Rules

The California Supreme Court has temporarily blocked a San Luis Obispo teacher from assuming the school-board seat to which she was elected last November.

The San Luis Coastal Unified School District and the other six board members sued in state court last November to prevent Caroline Botwin, an English teacher, from taking office, arguing that she would face numerous conflicts of interest serving as both a school-board member and a teacher.

A superior court granted the original restraining order, which the supreme court extended indefinitely.

But the Southern California office of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing Ms. Botwin, argued that only the state attorney general, not the local school board, can bring such litigation. A superior court judge agreed in December, and dismissed the case.

Also at issue is whether a teacher can serve as a school-board member, said Marketa Sims, one of the A.C.L.U. lawyers representing the teacher. So far, that question has not been addressed by the courts, she said.

The school district contends that state law prevents Ms. Botwin from serving on the board, but Ms. Sims said the teacher could "sufficiently shield herself" from potential conflicts.

Lawyers for both sides said they expect the high court to decide soon whether to withdraw its order or to set a hearing date in the dispute.

■ **Southeast Asian refugees who taught in their homeland but who fled to the United States without their documentation can now have their academic credentials validated in Massachusetts.**

The program, implemented last month at the University of Lowell, is designed to address the state's need for bilingual teachers who can work with growing enrollments of students from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

After interviews with a panel of experts on Southeast Asian education, the refugee teachers can receive credit for coursework in their native land as they begin the state's teacher-certification process.

According to state officials, thus far, about 24 Cambodian applicants have been interviewed through the program, which is co-sponsored by the state office of refugees and immigrants and the state department of education.

■ **At least five Maryland school districts and the state's main purchasing agency have received grand-jury subpoenas as part of a state investigation into possible bid-rigging among asbestos contractors**, according to press reports.

The school systems were asked to furnish records on all asbestos-abatement and -removal activities conducted between 1985 and 1988, the reports said.

Jerome W. Klasmeier, deputy director of the department of general services, which includes the purchasing agency, said his agency was subpoenaed to release similar documents.

Michael F. Brockmeyer, chief of the antitrust division of the attorney general's office, would not confirm or deny reports about the investigation.

DISTRICTS

Los Angeles Child-Care Regulations Are Called 'Unreasonable' in Suit

A Los Angeles woman has filed a lawsuit charging that the city has imposed "unreasonable and illegal conditions" on child-care services provided in family homes.

Aileen J. Halliday, who has been operating a child-care center in her home for about a dozen children aged 8 weeks to 2½ years, contends the city overstepped its bounds when it imposed a set of restrictions on her center.

Following a noise complaint by neighbors, city officials launched a series of investigations and imposed several conditions on her permit. Ms. Halliday was required, among other things, to open the center later in the morning, restrict the children's outdoor-play hours, and install a fence around the property.

A Long-Distance Courier

Millions of American students had good reason to watch last week's launch of the space shuttle *Columbia* with unusually intense interest.

In addition to the excitement of the launch itself, up to 4 million students in 250,000 classrooms saw a more practical significance in the event. For them, the shuttle was expected to serve as a long-distance courier that would retrieve materials for them to use in some unique classroom science experiments.

As part of their mission, the shuttle's five astronauts were expected to bring back to Earth an 11-ton satellite that contains, among other items, 12.5 million tomato seeds. The seeds, which were deployed into Earth orbit in 1984, are among 57 experiments aboard the satellite designed to test the exposure of materials to the space environment.

When they return to Earth, the seeds will be sent to the George W. Park Seed Company of Greenwood, S.C., which will distribute them to schools along with a like number of seeds that have been maintained in a ground-based facility.

The Park Company is conducting the project, known as Space Exposed Experiment Developed for Students—or SEEDS—in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"Because this is the first opportunity for long-duration space exposure of living tissues, every classroom experiment will be significant," said Richard H. Truly, NASA's administrator. "I hope millions of students will experience this hands-on, one-of-a-kind experiment and learn that science is fun."

In addition to providing 50 space-borne and 50 control seeds, the firm next month will also send to participating schools instructional materials and computerized data-collection booklets.

Agency officials said they expect pupils in grades 5 through secondary school to compare germination rates and times, seed embryos, phototropic responses, and fruit products. Upper-grade and college students, they said, could perform more sophisticated experiments, including chromosome tests and population-genetics studies.

Educators interested in participating in the project should write: NASA SEEDS Project, Educational Affairs Division, Code XEO, NASA, Washington, D.C. 20546, and indicate grade level. —R.R.